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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. A very high percentage of young female doctors worked in PW camps, civilian hospitals, and in Soviet towns. In some cases, about two-thirds of the entire medical personnel of a hospital were Jewish.
2. A prospective doctor is given 11 years of school training (sic). Subsequently he studies at a university, usually for five years. After passing his state examination, he has the right to use the title of doctor without having to undergo additional practical training in a hospital or to serve as an assistant under an experienced colleague. After six weeks of practical training at a medical institute, the young doctor may call himself "medical specialist for".
3. Most of the scientific textbooks used by doctors were translations of West European books, especially those of German medical authors. Some of the translated books seen were issued in 1950.
4. In the eastern part of the Ukraine, special stress appeared to be placed on the construction of new hospitals and schools. Very often, a hospital was the first building to be erected in a new settlement. In Shakhty, one new hospital was built, and another large, modern hospital was under construction 12 to 15 km west of town. By the fall of 1953, the framework of three stories of the latter hospital had been completed.
5. All of the hospitals visited suffered from a shortage of high-quality X-ray apparatus. The quality and completeness of the medical equipment and instruments available in operating theaters varied. In addition to Soviet medical equipment, German and U. S. medical instruments were seen.
6. Prior to the fall of 1950, civilian and military hospitals were mostly furnished with Lend-lease and German medicines. On the whole, the supply of medicines was adequate. After the fall of 1950, Soviet-made medicines were used. The variety of medicines developed by the Soviet chemical industry for specific ailments was limited. For each

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type of treatment, usually only one or two medicines were available. The Soviet medicines designed for deadening pain or for narcotizing purposes had only 50 percent of the effect of the corresponding Western medicines. For morphium and dicodid, the Soviet normal dosage was 0.001 instead of 0.002 grams (sic).

7. Medical care for the population seemed to reflect the Eastern indifference toward life. A conspicuous hardness on the part of medical personnel in the treatment of patients and a great capacity for suffering on the part of the patients were frequently observed. A patient who had undergone an operation on his bladder, stomach, or intestinal tract would be released from the hospital after a period of five to seven days without being subjected to any after-treatments.
8. The incidence of tuberculosis and intestinal and stomach ulcers was rather high in the western part of the USSR. Gastric diseases were widespread among the male population. These diseases also resembled epilepsies, probably because of the poor quality of the food available prior to 1950. Another contributory factor was probably the excessive smoking of "roll your own" cigarettes made of makhorka.¹ Even boys who were only seven or eight years old were seen smoking these cigarettes. Not only city-bred youngsters, but also children in the villages were observed following this practice.

1. Comment: Makhorka is a very strong, bitter, low-grade, bulk-pack tobacco.

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